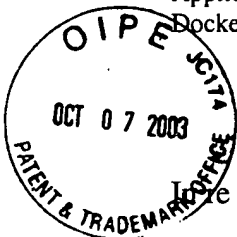


Application No.: 10/084,143
Docket No. 87335.3461

Reply under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure – Technology Center 3679



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor Application of
David ENGEL

Serial No. 10/084,143

Group Art Unit: 3679

Filed: February 28, 2002

Examiner: K. Thompson

For: RETAINING RING APPARATUS AND METHOD

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

Mail Stop AF

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
2011 South Clark Place
Customer Window, Mail Stop After Final
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

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Sir:

This is in response to the final Office Action mailed September 12, 2003, having a three-month shortened statutory period of response set to expire December 12, 2003. The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.

No extension-of-time fee or other fees are believed due. However any extension of time necessary to prevent abandonment is hereby requested, and any fee necessary for consideration of this response is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account Number 50-2036.